

WASHINGTON – Rep. Harry Mitchell applauded President Barack Obama's signature on Monday of an Executive Order that restores federal support of embryonic stem cell research. Mitchell called the reversal of the Bush-era ban on potentially life-saving research a victory for scientific inquiry and medical advancement.

"Today the President restored hope for millions of Americans who suffer from diseases such as diabetes, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, Lou Gehrig's and Huntington's Disease," Mitchell said.

"This investment in science and ethical research is right in line with what the majority of the American people, including my constituents, have long wanted to see. Searching as hard as we can for cures to these terrible diseases is more than just smart policy, it's a moral obligation."

Congressman Mitchell's first floor speech after taking office in 2007 was a call to overturn the stem cell research ban. He has also voted multiple times to overturn the ban since, including a measure, S. 5, that passed in June, 2007, on a bi-partisan vote of 247 to 176 only to be vetoed by President Bush.